



**County Administrative Office**  
**Governmental & Legislative Affairs**

**Josh Candelaria**  
Director

July 30, 2020

The Honorable Jim Wood  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 217 (Portantino) – as amended June 23, 2020 – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

Dear Chairman Wood,

The County of San Bernardino regrettably must oppose unless amended SB 217 (Portantino) which would substantially expand the oversight for children's recreational camps in California. As currently written, SB 217 places the sole oversight of recreational camps on local health departments, including disciplines that are beyond their scope, such as child supervision and safety. Instead, San Bernardino County requests that the bill be amended to require a broad taskforce to focus on child safety and explore the most appropriate regulatory structure to achieve that goal.

Recreational day camps serve as a vital childcare and enrichment option during school breaks for working families. Day camps provide a safe environment where children gain self-confidence as they learn new skills and camp is a place where children develop a variety of social skills.

San Bernardino County commends the author's goal to create a licensing structure for recreational camps that ensures the safety and well-being of children. However, rather than placing recreational camp oversight responsibilities solely on the local health department, we believe there should be a multi-faceted structure. Oversight should include appropriate entities like the California Department of Social Services to provide licensure addressing child supervision, and county fire marshals and code enforcement departments, which have the necessary expertise to enforce applicable fire and building codes.

Additionally, SB 217 limits the cost of local licensing and enforcement efforts to an annual fee of \$1,250 yet imposes detailed requirements around inspections and reporting that increases the cost of oversight. Today, the County of San Bernardino regulates sleep-away camps but only issues permits for specific functions and operations, such as swimming pools, water systems, and food facilities. Each of these permits has its own related fee structure. A cap on fees would not cover the cost of regulatory responsibilities for existing organized camps and will not provide the resources necessary to expand oversight to hundreds, if not thousands, of additional recreational camps statewide. We believe that each entity tasked with oversight should be able to recover related costs to assure thorough safety and oversight.

The County of San Bernardino strongly encourages oversight of day camps by enforcement agencies that can provide the appropriate knowledge to guarantee the safety of children attending such programs. Our local health department is not equipped to oversee child safety and well-being, but instead is one piece of a comprehensive safety framework for children's recreational day camps.

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For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino opposes unless amended SB 217. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or [jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov](mailto:jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Curt Hagman  
Fourth District Supervisor  
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Health Committee  
The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation